

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Office of the Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Re: Cabot Corporation Consent Decree

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

I am writing to request that the Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA) delay or forego implementation of costly new requirements on Cabot Corporation's carbon black facilities located in Louisiana, and to only move forward if the rules are fair and evenly applied to all carbon black plants in the U.S.

An American chemicals and performance materials company, Cabot provides employment for over 1500 people across the United States, including hundreds of Louisianans in multiple manufacturing plants throughout the state. Cabot also has manufacturing operations in Texas, Oklahoma, Illinois, Michigan, and Massachusetts. In Louisiana alone, Cabot invests about \$50 million a year on wages, goods, and services and provides hundreds of high-paying jobs.

As you are aware, during the Obama administration, the EPA pursued an aggressive agenda aimed at mandating very expensive new requirements on all U.S. carbon black producers under the Clean Air Act. Acting in cooperation with the EPA, Cabot agreed to the costly changes with the clear understanding that the entire industry would be required to meet the same mandates and timeline. The EPA made this abundantly clear and publicly acknowledged in press releases that this initiative was an industry-wide effort. However, while Cabot and one other company (with carbon black production jobs in Alabama and Oklahoma) face onerous and costly new requirements, from information currently available it appears that all other U.S. competitors will not be required to do the same.

Unfortunately, a fair and even playing field has not been achieved. While Cabot and one other company face onerous and costly new requirements, all other U.S. competitors are not required to do the same. This is inconsistent with EPA's original intent and puts Cabot's great Louisiana jobs at clear and imminent risk. Without consistent and fair treatment of all carbon black producers, the net effect will result in significant negative and irreversible market impact on Cabot and the one other company who agreed to EPA's new and costly requirements.

Cabot has always been a technology leader in the carbon black industry and, consistent with this proud tradition, Cabot decided to be the first carbon black company to cooperate with the EPA. Cabot acted in good faith and believed the EPA when they assured Cabot that all of the other

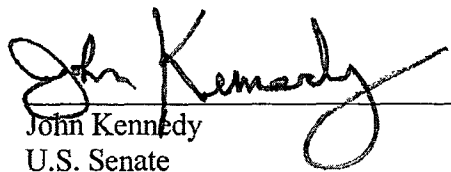
competitors would be required to follow suit. The EPA is not only picking winners and losers, albeit inadvertently; it is making companies that have cooperated and acted in good faith the losers.


For these reasons, my constituents in Louisiana are asking for an abeyance for Cabot until the EPA finds a path forward that is fair and evenly applied to all U.S. carbon black producers.

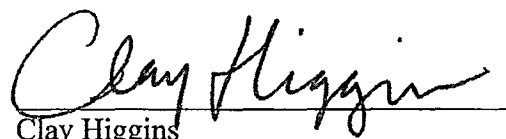
Allowing the ongoing negative and disproportionate impacts to continue forward would have the potential to significantly impact Cabot's Louisiana operations and similarly threatened Oklahoma projects, creating large scale secondary statewide economic impacts. Additionally, it would also open the door to U.S. imports of carbon black from Russia and China, which are well known to be subsidized by their respective governments and be disruptive to U.S. markets.


We look forward to working with you to protect all of these American jobs, and we eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,


John Kennedy
U.S. Senate


Mike Johnson
U.S. Congress


Clay Higgins
U.S. Congress


Ralph Abraham, M.D.
U.S. Congress